

**H.R. 1496, National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act**  
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on March 29, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	11	12
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 1496 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million annually over the 2024-2027 period for the National Weather Service (NWS) to replace its current instant messaging system with an updated, cloud-based system. The NWS uses instant messages to share its expertise on making critical warning decisions and other types of significant weather information with public safety officials, emergency personnel, and the media.

Based on spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1496 would cost \$11 million over the 2023-2028 period and \$1 million after 2028, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 1496**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Authorization	0	3	3	3	3	0	12
Estimated Outlays	0	2	2	3	3	1	11

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip L. Swagel".

Phillip L. Swagel  
Director, Congressional Budget Office